

INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

32-L

Action

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Classification

Control: 4305

Re'd: FEBRUARY 7, 1959

7:27 AM

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FROM: MOSCOW

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM

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PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1571, PRIORITY BERLIN 112, BONN 201, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 307, PARIS 279, HEIDELBERG UNNUMBERED.

HEIDELBERG FOR POLAD USAREUR

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND WEST.

BERLIN'S 673.

BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US TO TAKE UP INSPECTION ISSUE AT PRESENT TIME WITH SOVIET MFA EITHER ON TRIPARTITE BASIS OR UNILATERALLY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN CURRENT STATUS DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN. AGREE COMPLETELY WITH BERLIN'S ESTIMATE THAT UNLIKELY SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO SETTLE ISSUE TO OUR SATISFACTION BUT THIS APPLIES EVEN MORE TO TAKING UP MATTER IN MOSCOW AND IN FACT WE WOULD BE USING THE COURT OF LAST RESORT TO TRY AND SETTLE AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT EVEN DRAMATIZED AT THE MOMENT BY A SPECIFIC CASE OF HOLDING UP A WESTERN CONVOY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT MARKUSHIN'S REMARK TO BURNS IS NECESSARILY PROOF THAT SOVIETS WILL PURSUE THE MATTER UNLESS NEW INCIDENT DEVELOPS.

BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RUN OUR CONVOYS BETWEEN BERLIN AND FGR AS USUAL, (ALTHOUGH AVOIDING PARTICULARLY DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS USE OF TRUCKS OF TYPE LIKELY TO PROVOKE INCIDENTS) AND REMAIN ADAMANT ON INSPECTION ISSUE IF RAISED AGAIN BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AT CHECKPOINT, EXHAUSTING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS PROTEST AT LOCAL LEVEL BEFORE RAISING ISSUE TO GOVERNMENT

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-2- 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM FROM MOSCOW

LEVEL. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT RECENT INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND IN END RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR MAY HAVE EMBARRASSED SOVIETS AND THEY MAY EVEN BE RELUCTANT TO LOCK HORNS WITH US SOON AGAIN ON SAME ISSUE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THEY DO SO WE SHOULD IN OUR OPINION REMAIN FIRM AND ONLY AS MATTER OF LAST RESORT TAKE UP MATTER ON UNILATERAL BASIS HERE, I.E., THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE CONVOY IS BEING DETAINED SHOULD RAISE MATTER AND NOT THREE POWERS, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

THOMPSON

SGC

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